



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FINAL TWO CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN METH CASE**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Peculiar, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today for their role in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

**Mervil Mathews**, 38, and **Eddie Lynn Barker**, 43, both of Peculiar, were sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning for their role in a metropolitan methamphetamine conspiracy. **Mathews** was sentenced to five years and eight months in federal prison without parole and **Barker** was sentenced to 10 years and 11 months in federal prison without parole.

On March 7, 2003, **Mathews** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2001, and June 25, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Mathews** admitted that he negotiated the purchase of approximately five pounds of iodine on Nov. 28, 2001, for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. **Mathews** was arrested when he picked up the iodine and, as a result, law enforcement officers searched his residence. During the search, law enforcement officers discovered pseudoephedrine, rubber tubing, flasks, heating elements and other items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine, Graves said.

On April 16, 2003, **Barker** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2001, and June 25, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Barker** admitted that he played a role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

**Mathews** and **Barker** are the final two co-defendants to be sentenced in this methamphetamine conspiracy. Four others also pleaded guilty and have been sentenced. All of the defendants were charged in a superseding indictment, which was returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 4, 2002, in Kansas City.

On Oct. 31, 2003, **David G. Hall**, 47, of Kansas City, was sentenced to 10 years and 11

months in federal prison without parole. On May 6, 2003, **Hall** pleaded guilty to attempting to manufacture methamphetamine on July 12, 2001, at 617 S. Spruce, in Kansas City.

On Oct. 31, 2003, **Edward W. Bowman**, 43, of Kansas City, was sentenced to eight years and four months in federal prison without parole. On June 30, 2003, **Bowman** pleaded guilty to attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Aug. 21 and Aug. 28, 2001. In attempting to manufacture the methamphetamine, **Bowman** admitted that he possessed over 1 kilogram of extracted pseudoephedrine and over 4,000 pseudoephedrine pills.

On Oct. 31, 2003, **Timothy H. Baker**, 41, of Kansas City, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison without parole. On April 24, 2003, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Baker** admitted that he assisted in the manufacture of methamphetamine between April 1, 2001, and Dec. 2, 2002, at 617 S. Spruce, in Kansas City.

On Oct. 31, 2003, **Robert Cantwell**, 25, of Belton, Mo., was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole. On Jan. 24, 2003, **Cantwell** pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture more than 50 grams of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he negotiated the purchase of five pounds of iodine crystals on Nov. 28, 2001.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Drug Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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